



Transportation Vision 2040



2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Augusta Planning & Development Department
Augusta GA

June 25, 2015



Regional Public Transit



- ❖ **Regional Planning Area**
- ❖ **Public Participation**
- ❖ **Community Meetings Summary**
 - ✓ **Community Travel Behavior Survey**
 - ✓ **Regional Public Transit Survey Results**
- ❖ **Regional Transportation Goals**
- ❖ **Key Findings - Transportation System Needs**
- ❖ **Regional Transportation Strategies**



What is ARTS?

- Augusta Regional Transportation Study
- Federally designated bi-state MPO engaged in regional transportation planning
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving the Augusta –Richmond, GA – Aiken, SC Metropolitan Statistical Area
- Partners with GDOT, SCDOT, FHWA, FTA, EPA, Richmond and Columbia Counties GA; and Aiken and Edgefield Counties SC
- Programs USDOT federal-aid transportation dollars for multimodal transportation infrastructure



MPO Organizational Structure



**AUGUSTA PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT
Dept.**

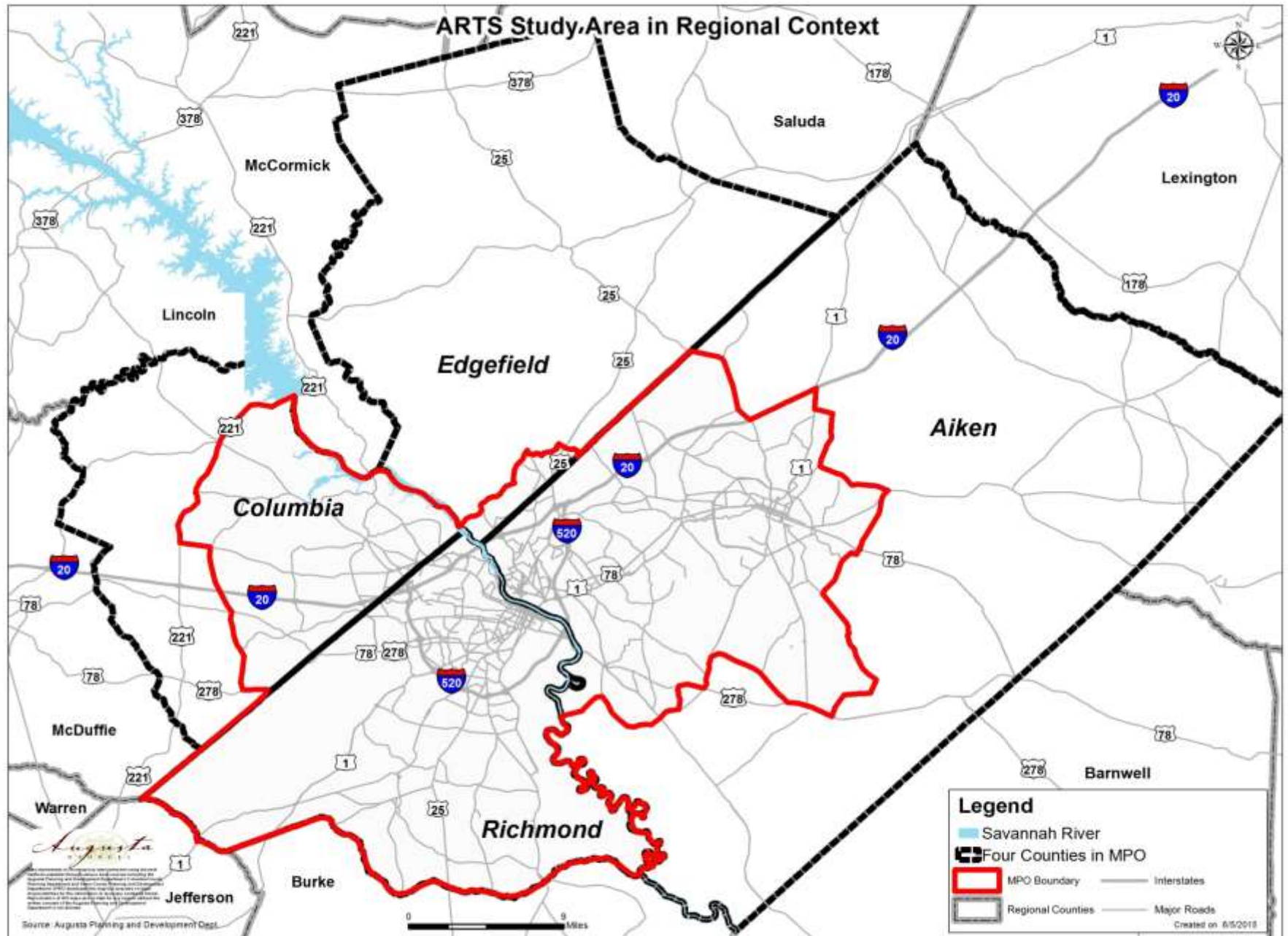
POLICY COMMITTEE
Elected and Appointed Officials
State and Local

**SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE**
Local Elected Officials
Appointed Officials

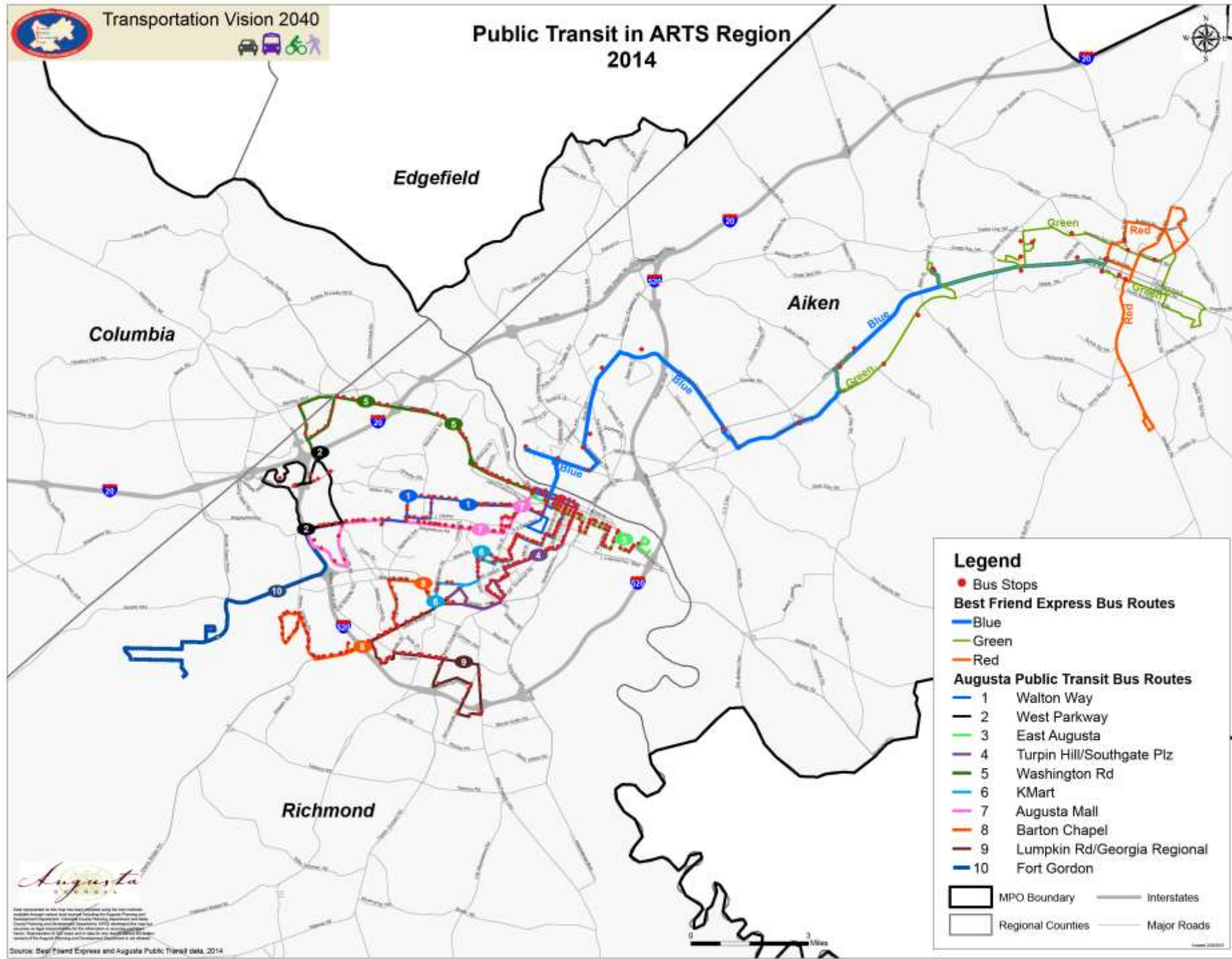
**TECHNICAL COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**
(State and Local)
Planners and Engineers

**CITIZENS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**
Citizens from the
study area

ARTS Study Area in Regional Context



Public Transit in ARTS Region 2014



Legend

• Bus Stops

Best Friend Express Bus Routes

Blue
Green
Red

Augusta Public Transit Bus Routes

1 Walton Way
2 West Parkway
3 East Augusta
4 Turpin Hill/Southgate Plz
5 Washington Rd
6 KMart
7 Augusta Mall
8 Barton Chapel
9 Lumpkin Rd/Georgia Regional
10 Fort Gordon

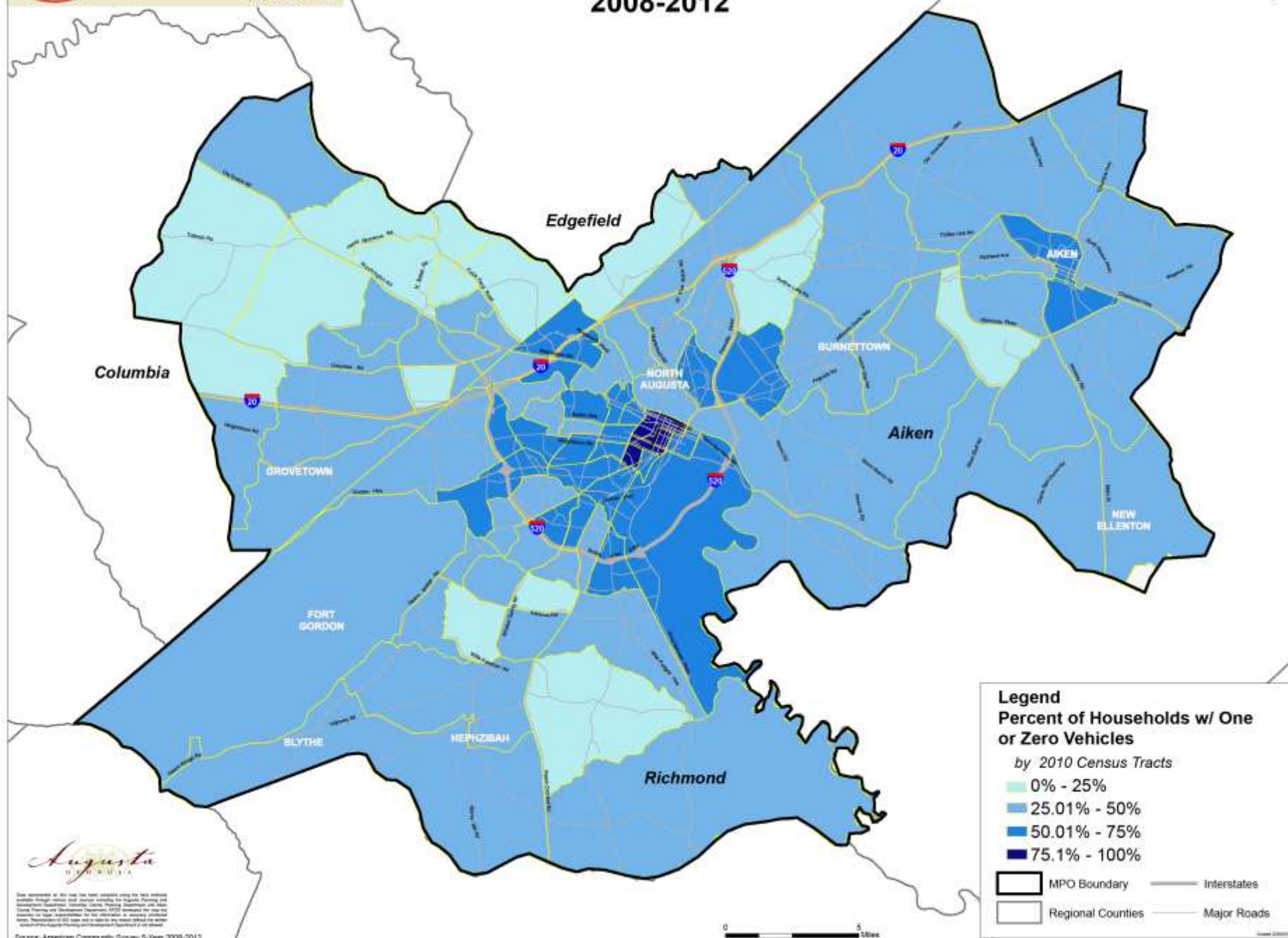
MPO Boundary
Regional Counties
Interstates
Major Roads

Augusta

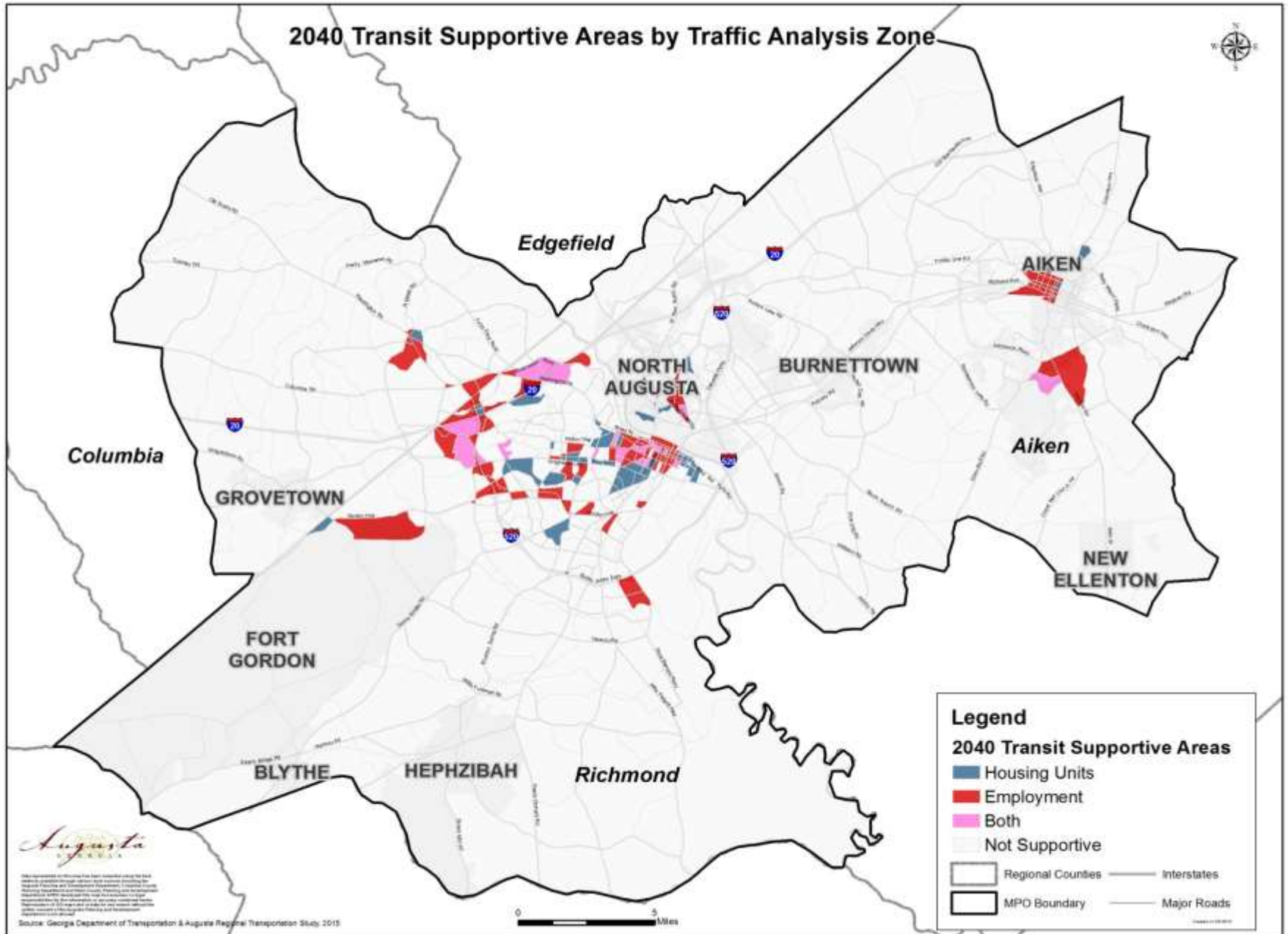
Best Friend Express and Augusta Public Transit data, 2014



Households Without Vehicle Ownership 2008-2012



2040 Transit Supportive Areas by Traffic Analysis Zone





Public Transit

Unlinked Passenger Trips	2011	2012	2013	2014
Augusta Public Transit	698,700	712,095	736,419	761,237
Best Friend Express	21,457	23,788	32,357	24,042

Augusta Public Transit

Operates Monday – Saturday 6AM – 8PM

Regular Fare \$1.25

10 routes with a fleet of 19 vehicles

Best Friend Express

Operates Monday – Friday 7AM – 7PM

Regular Fare \$2.00

3 routes with a fleet of 3 vehicles



Public Participation

Public Notification

- Press releases sent to TV, Radio Stations, and Newspapers;
- Flyers (English and Spanish) posted on buses and at transit stations, municipal buildings, and meeting venues;
- Yard signs posted at meeting venues;
- Bill drops (English and Spanish) sent to 64,000 water bill customers; and through
- Social media: Facebook and Twitter.

Media Outreach

- 7 TV stations
- 7 Newspapers
- 10 Radio stations
- TV Interviews: Channel 6 and Fox 54
- 4 municipal websites

Reuniones Comunitarias

Expresar Sus Preocupaciones Sobre Tráfico, Crecimiento, Transporte Público, Senderos Para Caminar y Bicileta.



Jueves,

Lunes,

Martes,

Jueves,

Lunes,

Favor conta
(706) 821-1796
problemas de

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Voice Your Concerns on Traffic, Growth, Public Transit, Bike & Walking Paths.



Transportation Vision 2040



GEORGIA

Thursday, March 5, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Hephzibah City Hall
2530 Highway 88
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Monday, March 9, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Liberty Community Center
1040 Newmarket Road
Grovetown, GA 30813

Tuesday, March 10, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Sand Hills Community Center
2540 Wheeler Road
Augusta, GA 30904

Thursday, March 12, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Carrie J. Mays Family Life Center
1014 Eleventh Avenue
Augusta, GA 30901

Monday, March 16, 2015: 5:00 - 7:00 PM
First Baptist Church of Evans
515 N. Belair Road
Evans, GA 30809

Saturday, March 21, 2015: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Warren Road Community Center
300 Warren Road
Augusta, GA 30907

Thursday, March 26, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Diamond Lakes Community Center
4135 Windsor Springs Road
Hephzibah, GA 30818

Saturday, March 28, 2015: 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Oak Point Community Center
730 East Boundary
Augusta, GA 30905

SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, March 19, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
North Augusta Community Center
495 Brookside Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29831

Monday, March 23, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Odell Weeks Activity Center
1700 Whiskey Road
Aiken, SC 29801

Tuesday, March 24, 2015: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Smith Hazel Recreation Center
400 Kershaw Street NE
Aiken, SC 29801

Please contact the Augusta Planning & Development Department at (706) 821-1796 for more information about the meetings. Persons with special needs related to disability or foreign language may contact the Planning office for assistance or visit our webpage at www.augustaga.gov/arts



Public Participation

Edgefield

Public Participation Summary:

- Speaker Bureaus
 - ✓ Presentations - 11
 - ✓ Attendees – 340
- Community Meetings
 - ✓ Presentations - 11
 - ✓ Attendees - 102
 - ✓ Goal Setting - 76
 - ✓ Meeting Evaluation - 62
- Goal Setting - 27 online visits
- Travel Behavior Survey - 785
- August Public Transit Ridership Survey - 599
- Aiken Best Friends Express Ridership Survey - 63





Public Participation

Community Meetings

Date of Meeting	Venue	# Attendees	Area Served (County)
Thursday, 3/5/15	Hephzibah City Hall	7	Richmond
Monday, 3/9/15	Liberty Community Center	6	Columbia
Tuesday, 3/10/15	Sand Hills Community Center	26	Richmond
Thursday, 3/12/15	Carrie J. Mays Family Life Center	7	Richmond
Monday, 3/16/15	First Baptist Church Evans	7	Columbia
Thursday, 3/19/15	North Augusta Community Center	6	Aiken
Saturday, 3/21/15	Warren Road Community Center	7	Richmond
Monday, 3/23/15	Odell Weeks Activity Center	13	Aiken
Tuesday, 3/24/15	Smith Hazel Recreation Center	7	Aiken
Thursday, 3/26/15	Diamond Lakes Community Center	8	Richmond
Saturday, 3/28/15	Oak Pointe Community Center	8	Richmond
Total		102	

420 total attendance including Speaker Bureau.
558 Surveys completed including Online.



Public Participation

Speaker Bureaus

Organization	Date	Location	Attendance
Walton Way Signal Improvement Public Meeting	Thursday, Jan 22, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 pm	Trinity on the Hill Methodist Church, Augusta	2
Columbia County Exchange Club	Thursday, Jan 29, 2015, 8:00 am	Snelling Center, Augusta	8
Augusta Exchange Club	Thursday, Feb 5, 2015, 12:00 pm	First Baptist Church - Walton Way Ext, Augusta	100
Augusta Canal Authority	Thursday, Feb 12, 2015, 5:00 pm	Enterprise Mill, Augusta	12
Commissioner Sammy Sias – District Breakfast Meeting	Saturday, Feb 14, 2015, 9:00 - 11:00 am	Jamestown Community Center, Augusta	73
Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce	Thursday, Feb 19, 2015, 7:30 am	Aiken Chambers, Aiken	25
Augusta Richmond County Neighborhood Alliance	Saturday, Mar 7, 2015, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Ryan's Restaurant, Augusta	45
Augusta Chamber of Commerce	Friday, March 13, 2015, 7:30 am	Augusta Chamber, Augusta	12
Sierra Club	Tuesday March 17, 2015, 7:30 pm	Unitarian Universalist Church, Augusta	38



Public Comments - Key Findings

- ***Road and Highways:*** Majority of regional travelers desire a highway system that is safe, efficient and in a good state of repair benefits everybody in meeting their transportation needs.
- ***Primary Travel Mode:*** Private motor vehicle, i.e., car/truck/van. single-occupant vehicles.
- ***Desired transportation improvements:***
 - ✓ Maintenance of highway/road and streets;
 - ✓ Reduce traffic congestion during peak periods;
 - ✓ Traffic safety.



Public Comments - Key Findings

- Public Transit and Non-motorized Transportation Modes:
 - ✓ Public transit
 - ✓ Alternative transportation facilities (bike lanes, multi-use paths and sidewalks).
- Improve Regional Transportation System:
 - ✓ Local traffic congestion
 - ✓ Traffic safety
 - ✓ Public transit
 - ✓ Alternative transportation modes



Community Meetings

Edgefield

Community Questions/Issues

Pedestrian

- Bike Plan Implementation

Rail

- Passenger
- Light-Rail
- High Speed Rail

Transit

- Expand routes
- Increase frequency
- Weekend service

Roads

- Widening and safety
- Washington Rd, Lewiston, SR-19 (Whiskey Rd.)

Funding

- SPLOST and TIA
- LRTP to TIP process
- Federal Funds

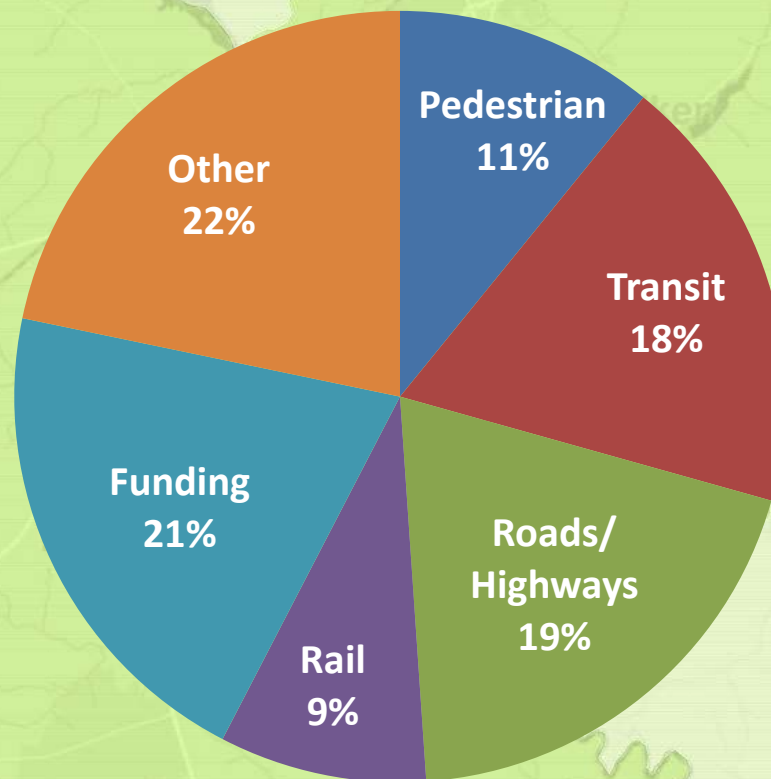
Other

- MPOs like ARTS
- Growth in South Augusta
- Commute Atlanta/Columbia
- Regional multimodal connectivity



Community Meetings

Questions/Inquiries Received:

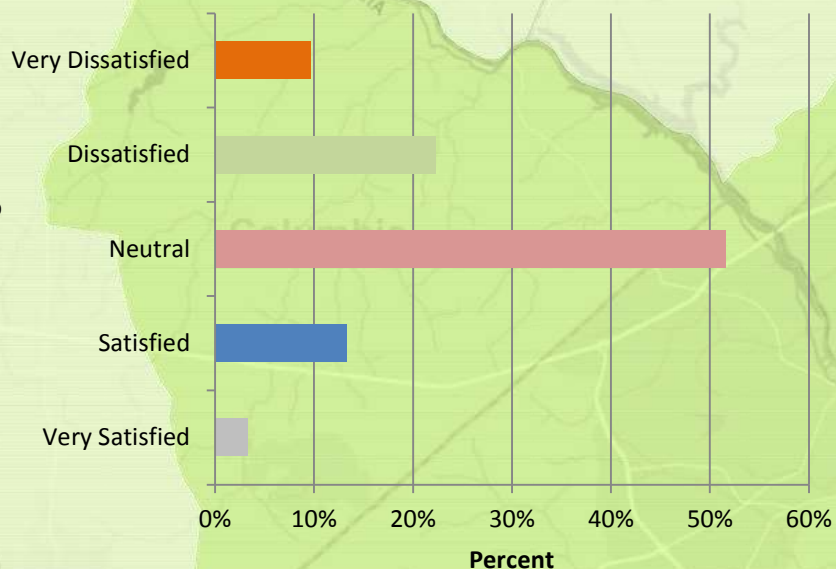




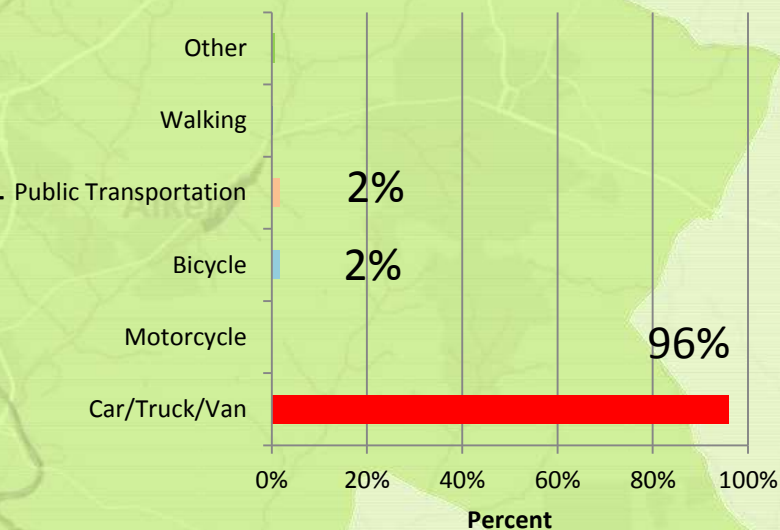
Travel Behavior Survey

Edgefield Travel Modes

Satisfaction with Transportation System
in ARTS Region



Mode of Transportation



In General

- Car, truck and van is primary mode of travel
- People are not satisfied with the current system
- Lack of alternative transportation options

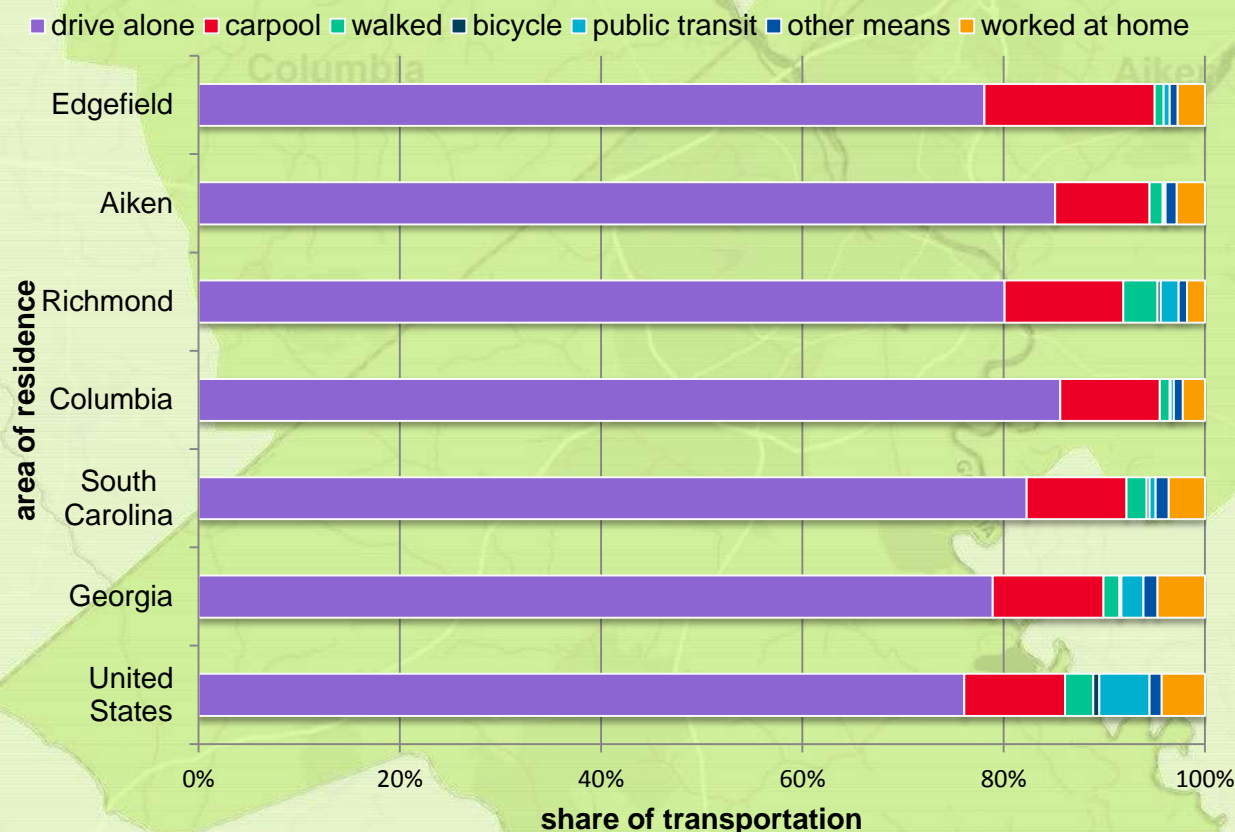


Regional Travel Behavior

Edgefield

	Columbia	Richmond	Aiken	Edgefield
Census 2000 (in minutes)	25.3	22.2	24.8	27.1
ACS 2008-2012 (in minutes)	24.4	20.1	25.4	26.6

It takes a person less than 30 minutes to get to work within the four counties



The four county residents Modes of travel follows National and State trends



Transportation Vision 2040 Goals

Congestion, Mobility and Traffic Safety

Goal #1 - A multimodal transportation system that promote strategies to reduce traffic congestion, improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic crashes in the ARTS region.

Maintenance

Goal #2 - A transportation system that will allow mobility throughout the region by improving the physical condition and maintenance of the transportation network to provide efficient and safe movement of persons and goods.

Economic Vitality and Environment

Goal #3 - A transportation system what will enhance the economic, social, and environmental fabric of the region through coordinated transportation and planned land use development.



Transportation Vision 2040 Goals

Land Use and Transportation Integration

Goal #4 - Promote efficient land use and development patterns to improve safety and economic vitality to meet existing and future multimodal transportation needs.

Financial Feasibility

Goal #5 - Develop a transportation system that is financially and politically feasible and has broad support by increasing the safety and security of the transportation system for all users.



Transportation Vision 2040



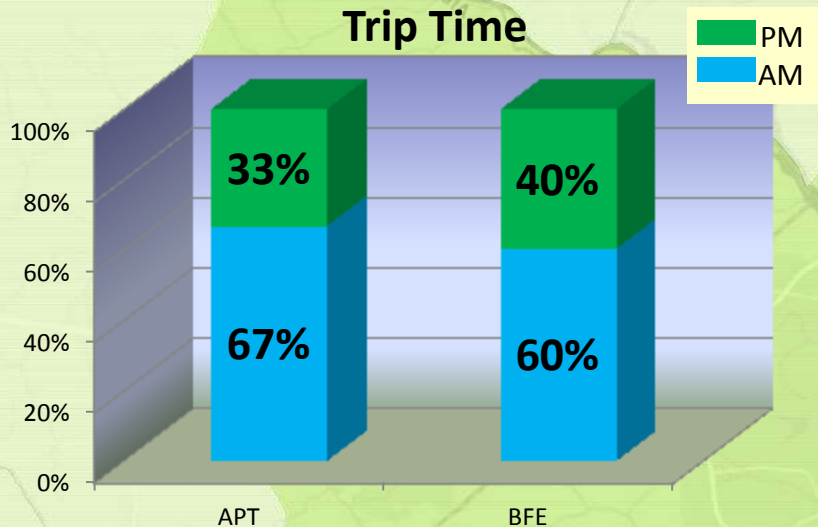
Public Participation



Regional Public Transit

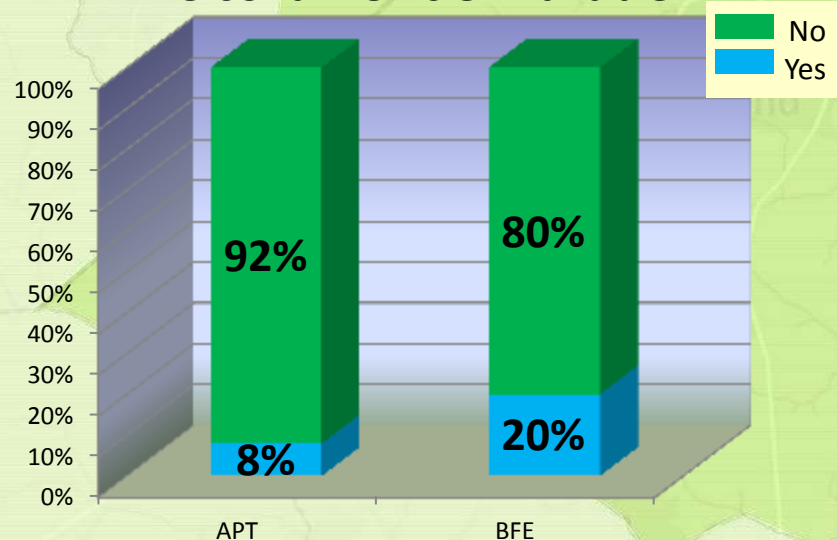


Trip Time



More people use public transit during the day than at night.

Personal Vehicle Available



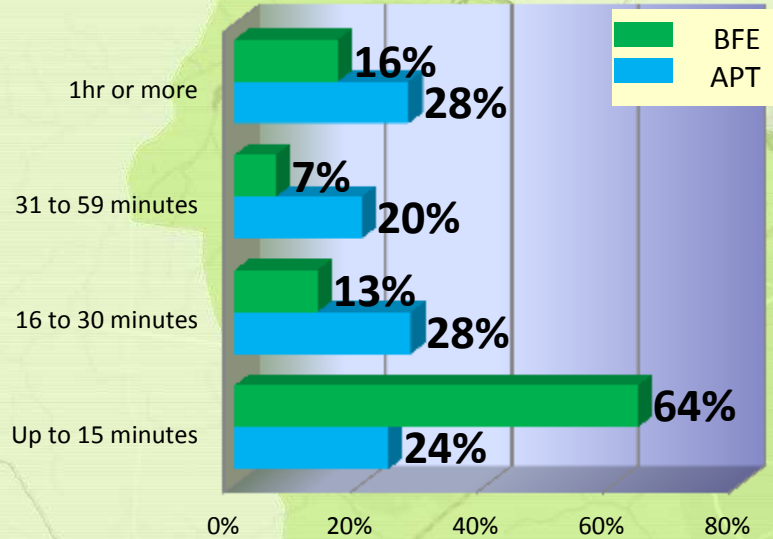
People without personal vehicles continue to use public transit. However, many people in ARTS are transit dependent.



Regional Public Transit



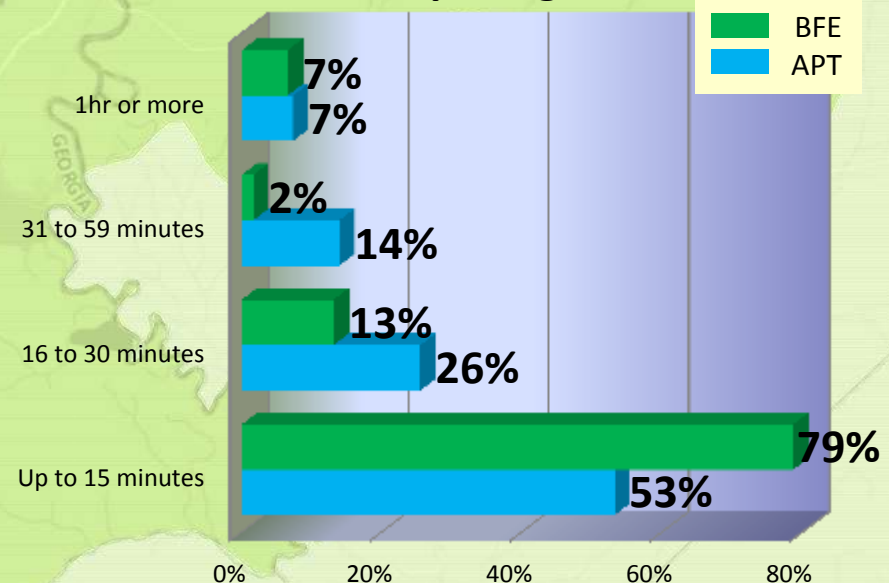
Wait Time



Bus headways for both services is an hour or longer, however riders generally wait no longer than 15 minutes.

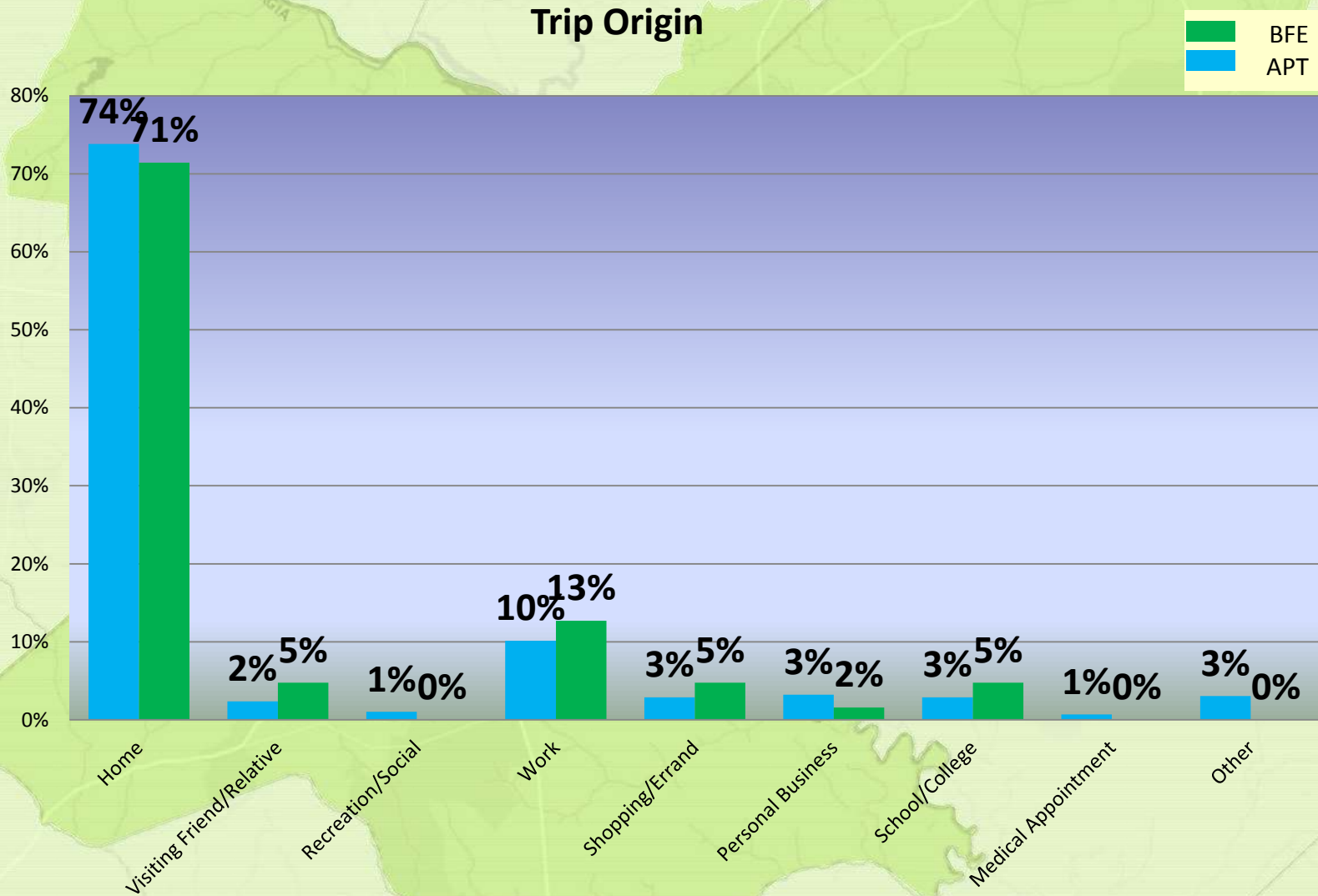
Travel Time = Riders reach their destination within 15 minutes on average.

Trip Length



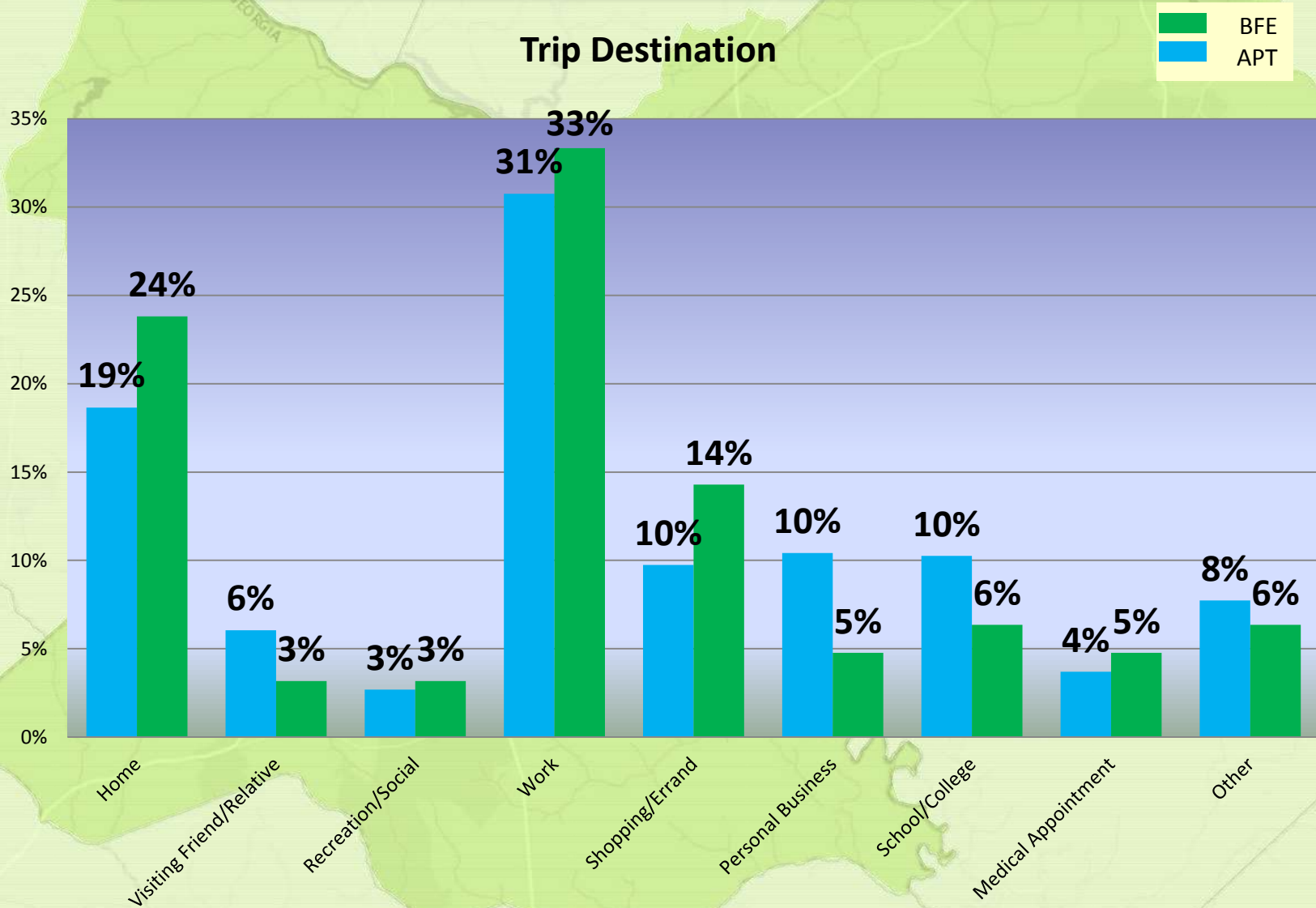


Regional Public Transit





Regional Public Transit

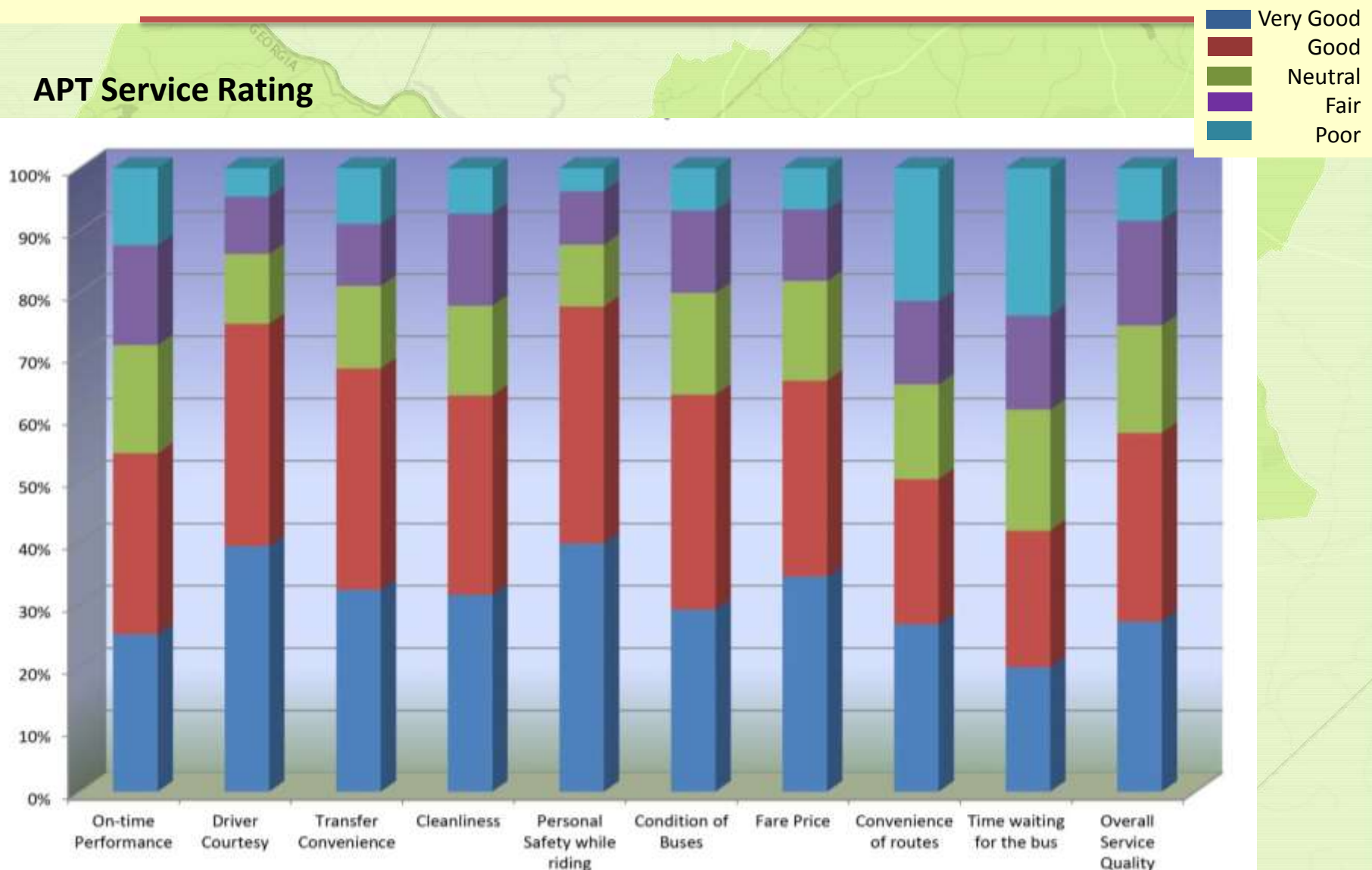




Regional Public Transit



APT Service Rating

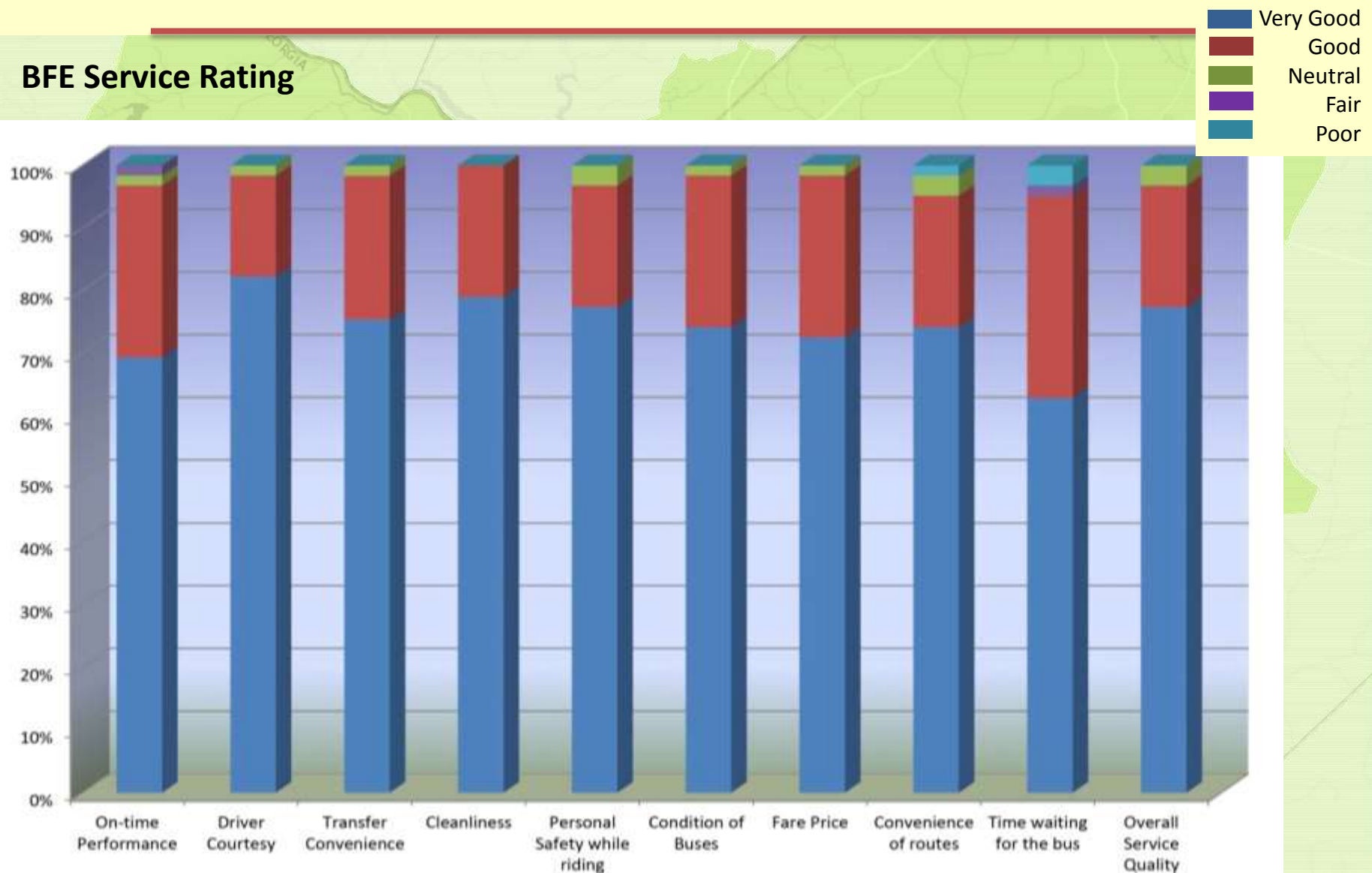




Regional Public Transit



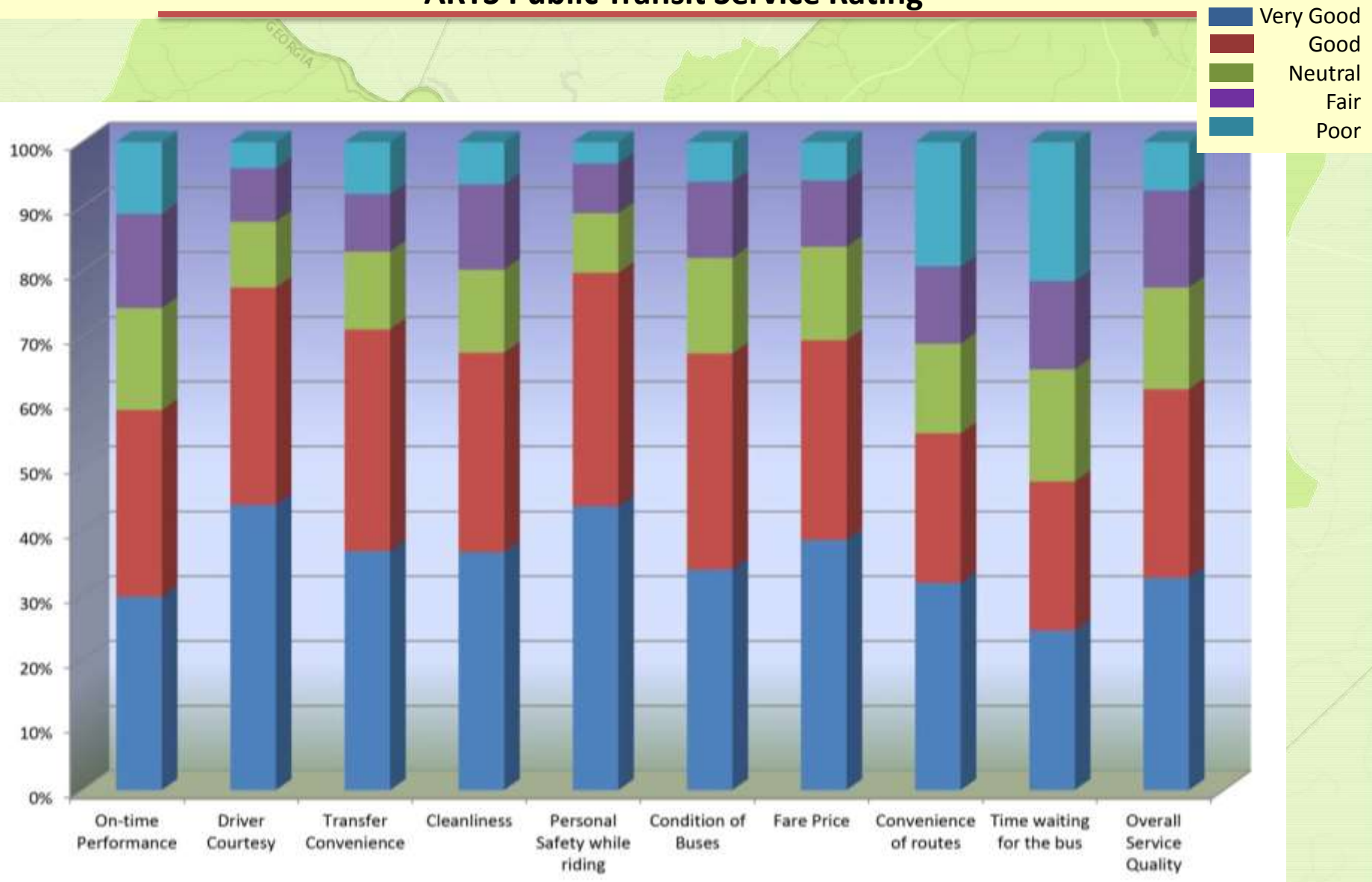
BFE Service Rating





Regional Public Transit

ARTS Public Transit Service Rating

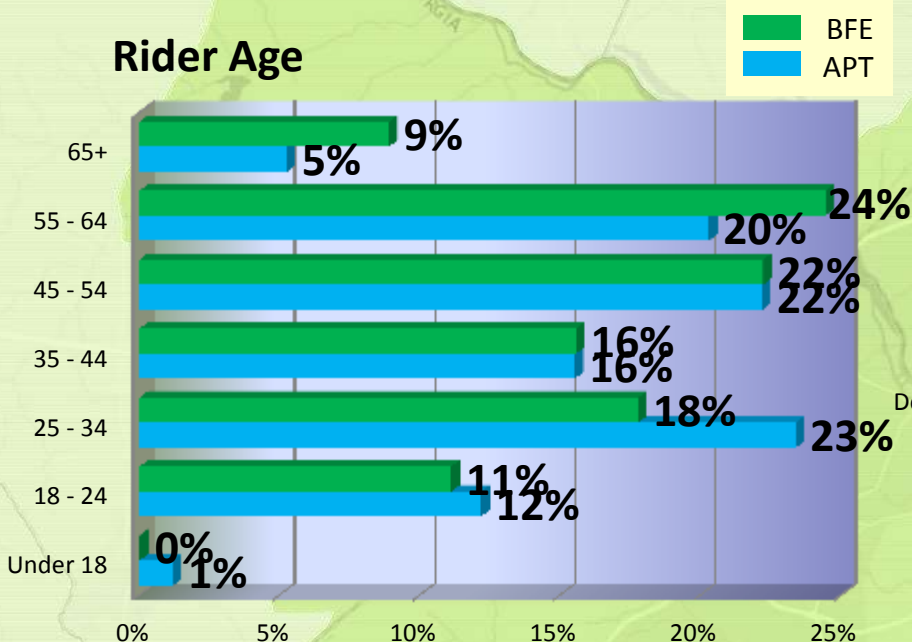




Regional Public Transit

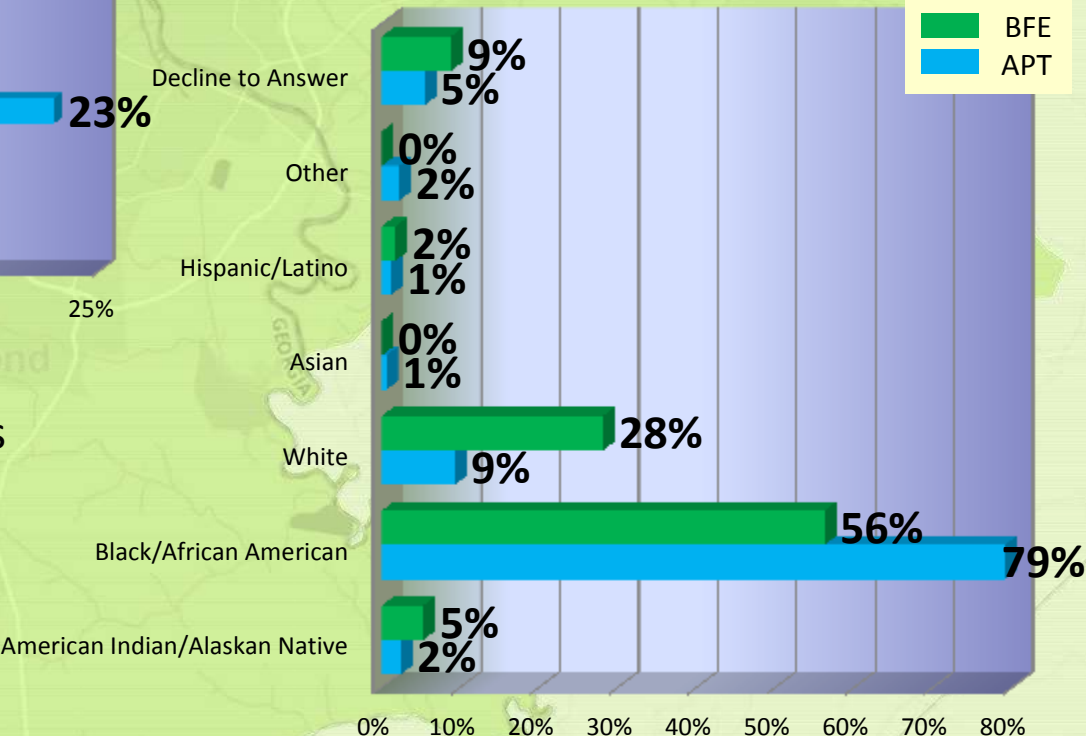


Rider Age



Majority of public transit riders are minorities, mostly Black/African Americans.

Rider Ethnicity



People of all ages use both services including young adults and elderly.

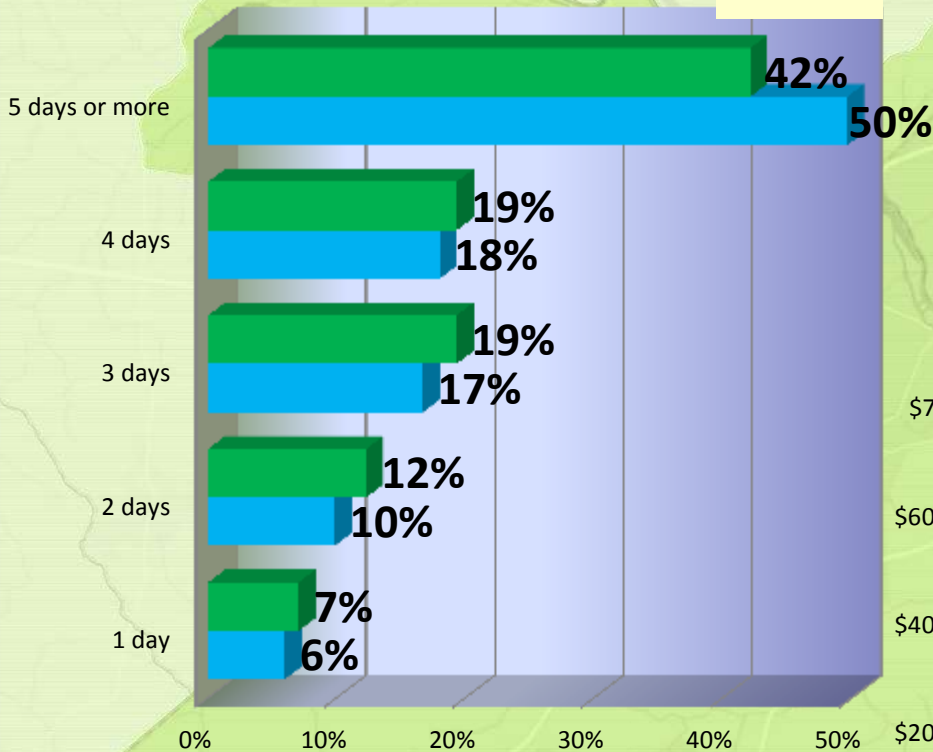


Regional Public Transit



Rider Frequency

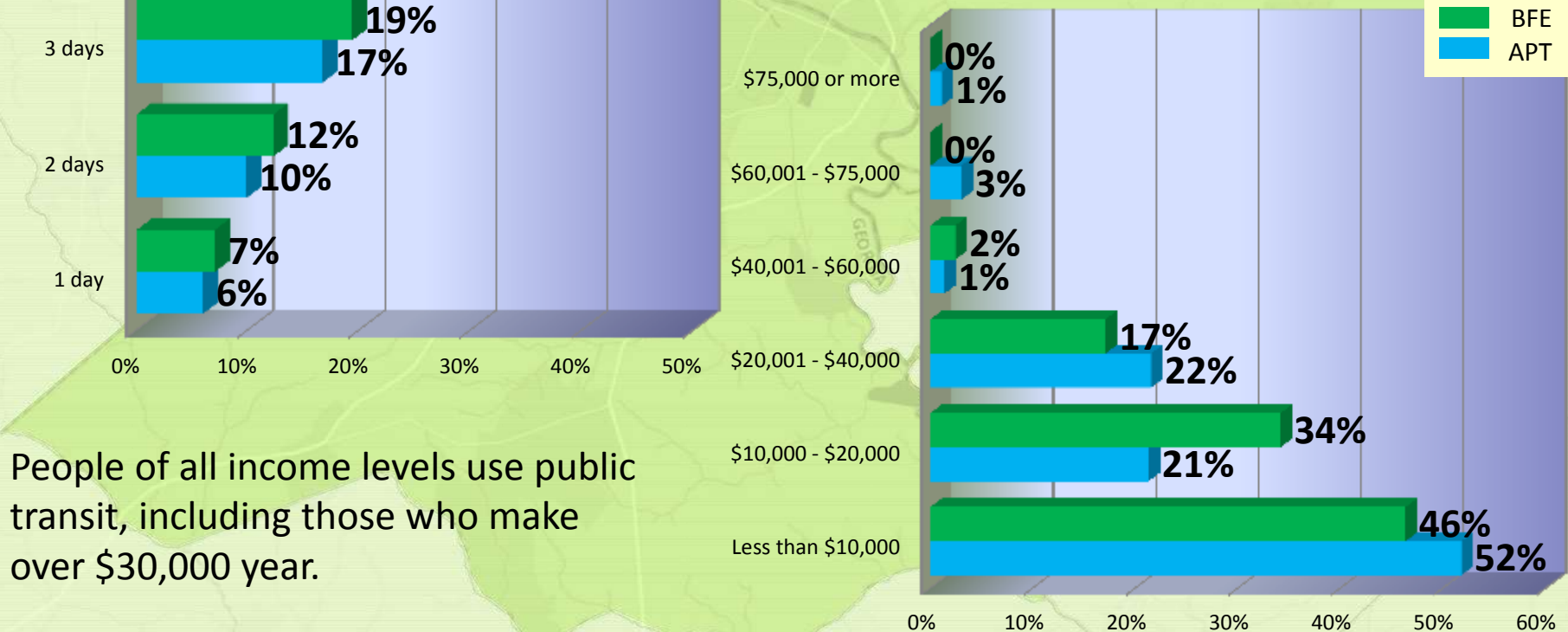
BFE
APT



Rides of public transit use it frequently, many more than 3 days a week.

Rider Income

BFE
APT



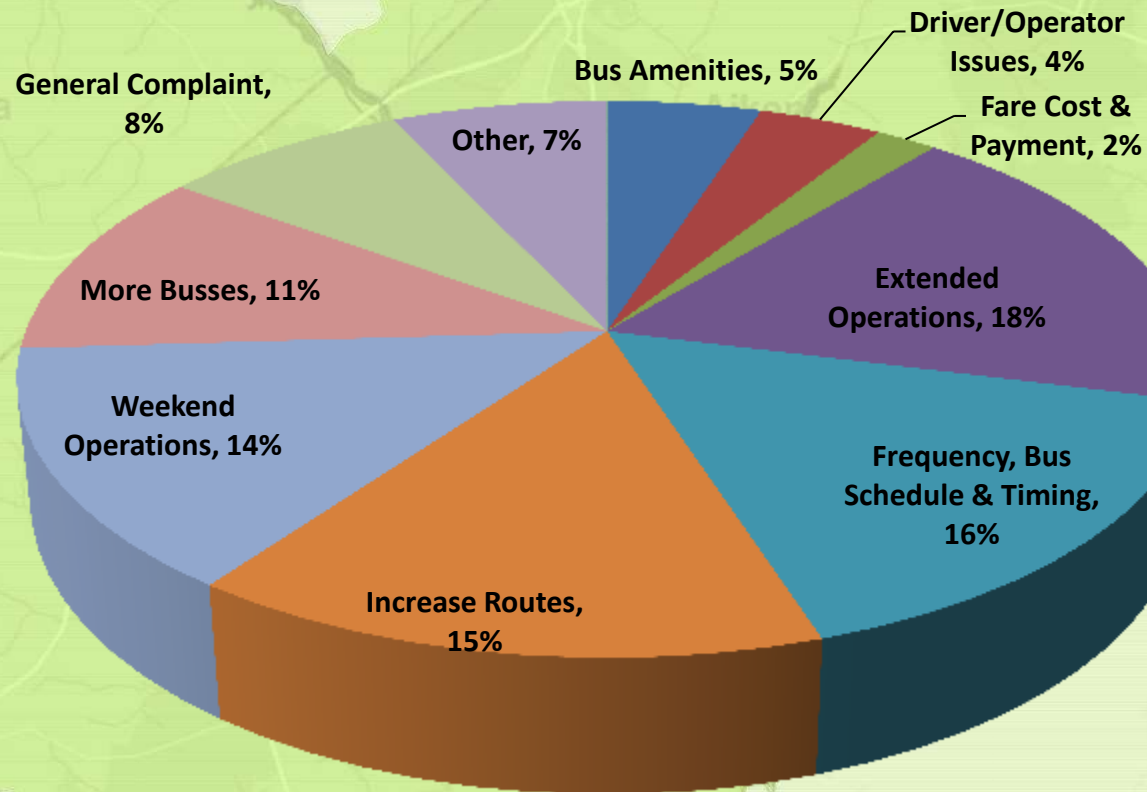
People of all income levels use public transit, including those who make over \$30,000 year.



Regional Public Transit



ARTS Public Transit Comments

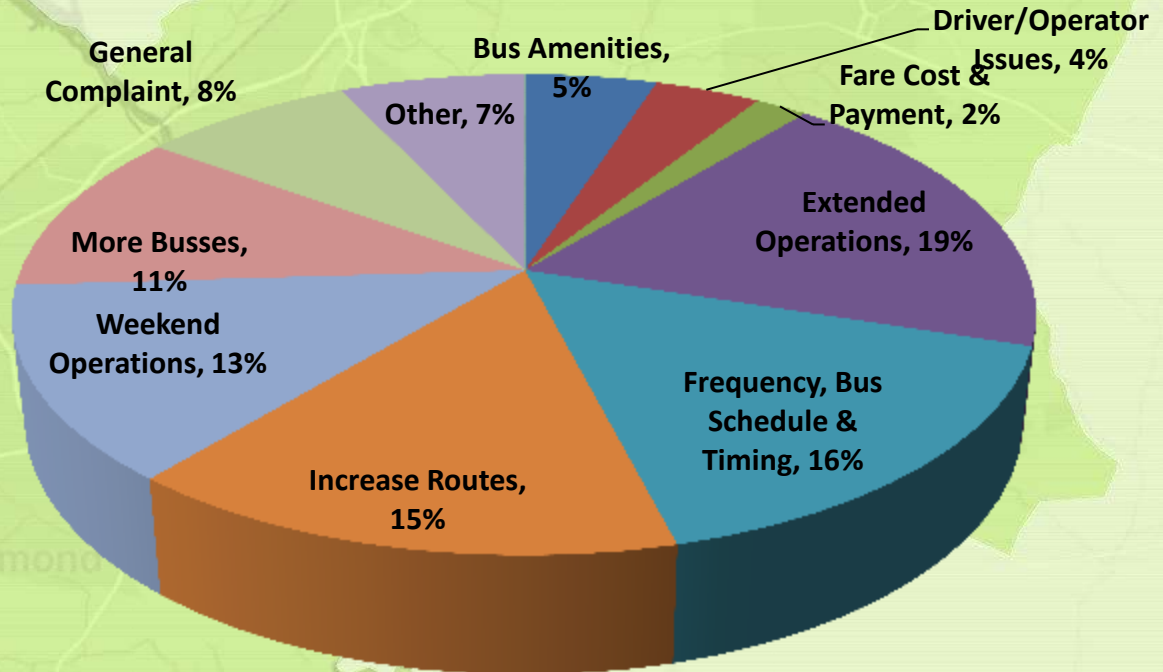




Regional Public Transit



APT Comments

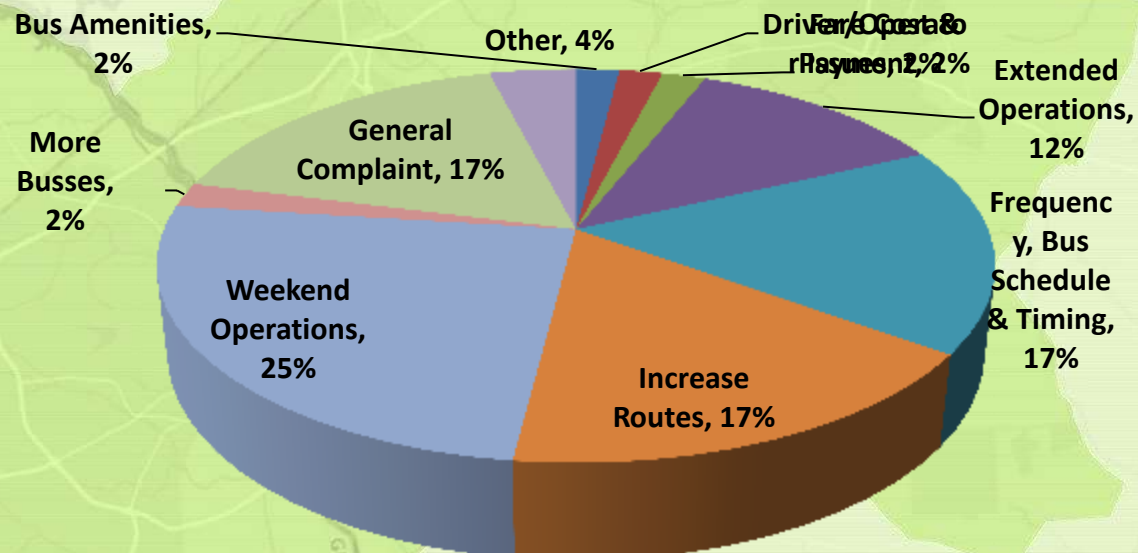




Regional Public Transit



BFE Comments





Transportation Vision 2040



Transportation System Needs Assessment



Transportation Needs Assessment

Critical Transportation Issues

Issue	Average Score
Local traffic congestion	3.93
Traffic safety issues	3.84
Lack of sidewalks	3.82
Lack of bike lanes	3.69
Lack of public transit services	3.50
Land use of transportation coordination	3.44
Lack of crosswalks	3.42
Lack of highways or road networks	3.09



Transportation Needs Assessment

Edgefield

Desired Transportation Priority Areas

Priority Area	Average Score
Physical condition of major streets and highways	4.50
Flow of traffic on major streets during morning or afternoon peak times	4.46
Safety controls on major streets & railroad crossings	4.28
Access to sidewalks and crosswalk areas	4.17
Neighborhood traffic safety	4.12
Availability of public transit services	3.98
Day-to-day predictability of your commute travel time (Less traffic congestion)	3.94
Ability to use another mode of transportation (Multi Modal Mobility)	3.85
Availability of bike lanes and paths	3.79
Time it takes you to commute from your home to place of employment	3.79
Availability of on-street Parking at your place of employment	3.21



Transportation Needs Assessment

Desired Transportation Improvements

Importance	Strongly Agree	Agree
Sidewalks	43%	36%
Road/highway widening	38%	37%
Bike lanes	36%	32%
Traffic signals/crosswalks	31%	37%
Public transit service	35%	28%
Stormwater drainage	30%	34%
On street parking	18%	25%



Transportation Needs Assessment

Public Transit Issues

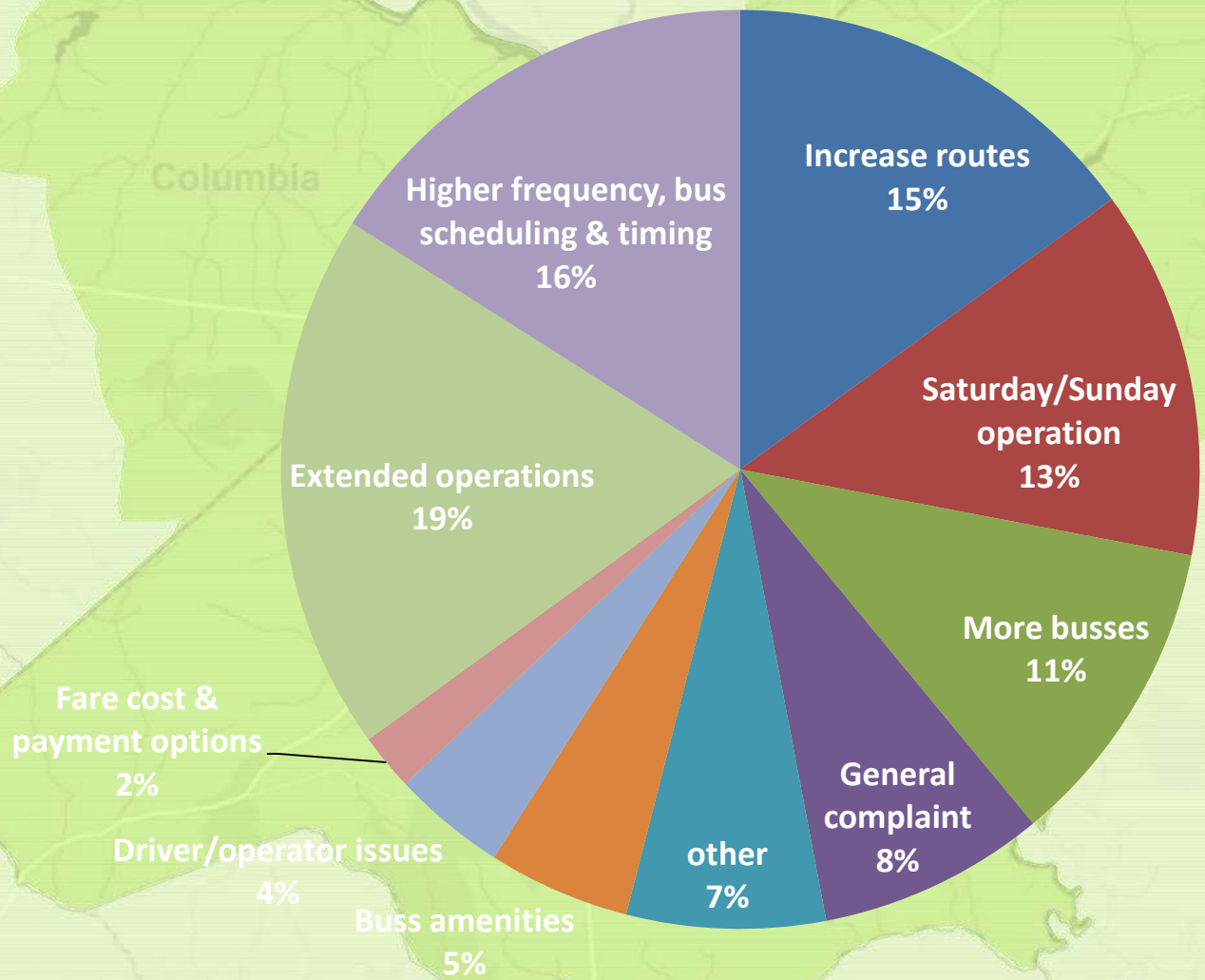
4.02	Service Issue #5 - Personal Safety while riding
3.96	Service Issue #2 - Driver Courtesy
3.76	Service Issue #7 - Fare Price
3.72	Service Issue #3 - Transfer Convenience
3.66	Service Issue #6 - Condition of Buses
3.66	Service Issue #4 - Cleanliness
3.51	Service Issue #10 - Overall Service Quality
3.39	Service Issue #1 - On-time Performance
3.21	Service Issue #8 - Convenience of routes
2.99	Service Issue #9 - Time waiting for the bus

Top 5 Public Transit Needs

- Extended Service Operations (19)
- More Frequency, Bus Scheduling & Timing (16%)
- Increase Routes (15%)
- Extended Saturday and Sunday Service (13%)
- Additional new buses (11%)



Transportation Needs Assessment





Transportation Improvement Strategies

- Highway and road capacity improvements – road widening
- Traffic Operational Improvement
- Incident Management
- Traffic Calming
- Complete Streets
- Context Sensitive Design
- Access Management
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
- Land Use and Transportation
- Age-Friendly Transportation & Community Health
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
- Public Transit



Transportation Needs Assessment

Edgefield

Capacity, Level of Service and Congestion

- Carryover capacity projects from 2035 LRTP on roadways that are seriously congested.
- Implement new capacity projects on roadways that are exhibiting poor Level of Service and are Seriously Congested.
- Monitor congestion levels and implement congestion mitigation measures in South Augusta as it continues to develop.
- Monitor congestion levels and implement congestion mitigation measures in and around the Fort Gordon Military Base as it continues to develop.
- Continued implementation of congestion mitigation strategies on Seriously Congested roadways identified in the annual congestion management process surveys.
- Continued implementation of ATMS plan to address safety and congestion.



Transportation Needs Assessment

Edgefield

- **Traffic Safety Improvements**
- Implement safety improvements at high crash intersections.
- Implement operational and access management improvements on corridors with
- extensive amounts of driveways, such as Washington Road.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Complete implementation of 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian plan.
- Focus on paths and trails with regional connectivity.
- Advocate and implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities on roadway projects.
- Increase education of all road users of roadway safety.
- Continued maintenance of existing facilities.



Transportation Needs Assessment

Edgefield

Transit

- Current densities do not facilitate large expansions of fixed route service, although certain population/employment clusters could off potential expansion if land uses are appropriate.
- Changes to current routes may improve efficiency.
- Improved frequency and extended hours of service in to the evenings and weekends provide increased quality of life and economic opportunity to residents.
- If future development is compact there exists the potential to support bus rapid transit if commuting pattern needs exist.



Transportation Needs Assessment

Edgefield

Freight

- Many large state projects for freight have been completed.
- Continue to focus on corridors with high freight activity, especially near industrial areas, such as I-20.
- Implement capacity improvements on major roadways and freight corridors, including I-20, US 78, and US 278

Edgefield



Questions?

